

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 14 are currently pending in the present application. With this Response, Applicants amend claims 1 and 6. No new matter is introduced. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, at page 24, lines 3 – 23 of Applicants' specification.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,501,736 to Smolik et al. Claims 3 – 5 and 7 – 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Smolik and U.S. Patent No. 6,442,151 to H'mimy et al. Applicants amend claims 1 and 6 to clarify the nature of their invention, and respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,501,736 to Smolik et al. Claims 3 – 5 and 7 – 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Smolik and U.S. Patent No. 6,442,151 to H'mimy et al.

In independent claims 1 and 6, Applicants respectively disclose a wireless terminal device and a node device.

The wireless terminal device of claim 1 includes: a) a wireless interface part having an interface to a wireless transmission path at a physical layer, b) a link forming part accessing the path to form a particular link, and c) a transmission/reception part for transmitting and receiving

information via the link. The wireless transmission path is formed as a physical channel to which a CSMA protocol is applied, and the link forming part forming the particular link on the wireless transmission path. The particular link shares the wireless transmission path with one or more additional links each associated with an additional wireless terminal device, the particular link and the one or more additional links each being formed with an initialization of the wireless transmission path and persisting while the wireless transmission path remains active. In this manner, the transmission/reception part is able to effectively transmit and receive information in a connectionless sequence.

The node device of claim 6 includes: a) a wireless interface part having, at a physical layer, an interface with wireless transmission paths via which wireless terminal devices are accommodated b) a link forming part forming links corresponding to the wireless terminal devices, and c) a transmission/reception part for transmitting and receiving information via the links. The link forming part forms individual links corresponding to the wireless terminal devices, the individual links being associated in a shared manner with ones of the wireless transmission paths, being formed with initialization of the ones of the wireless transmission paths and persisting while the ones of the wireless transmission paths remain active. As disclosed by claim 7, the node device further includes a transmission information monitoring part that monitors transmission rates for individual links in order to inform the link forming part during link selection to achieve a predetermined transmission quality.

The Examiner acknowledges that AAPA fails to teach Applicants' claimed wireless transmission path formed as a physical channel to which a CSMA system is applied, and cites Smolik for this purpose. Smolik discloses a system for increasing call capacity in a wireless communication system by adjusting speech transmission rates in order to increase call capacity of CDMA channels (see, e.g., column 1, line 56 – column 2, line 7 and column 2, lines 31 - 38 of

Smolik). As acknowledged by the Examiner, this approach does not disclose or suggest forming links over a physical channel to which CSMA is applied. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In each of independent claims 1 and 6, Applicants claimed invention discloses a link forming part that forms links each corresponding to a wireless terminal device and that are associated in a shared manner with a wireless transmission path (channel). Links for these terminals are formed with initialization of the transmission path, and persist while the path remains active (see, e.g., page 24, lines 3 – 23 of Applicants' specification). In sharp contrast to AAPA, Applicants' claimed approach employing the link forming part enables terminal devices to receive connection-oriented communication services without requiring a dedicated transmission path to be captured for each terminal. As a result, wireless network infrastructure may be reduced over the infrastructure disclosed by AAPA. This distinction of Applicants' claimed invention over AAPA is neither disclosed nor suggested by either of Smolik and H'mimy.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 6 are therefore not made obvious by the combination of cited art, and are therefore allowable. As dependent claims 2 - 5 and 7 - 14 each depend from one of allowable claims 1 and 6, Applicants further submit that claims 2 - 5 and 7 - 14 are allowable for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1 – 14, consisting of independent claims 1 and 6, and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested

to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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